

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: **James C. Bedingfield Sr. et al**)
Serial No.: **09/530,723**) Art Unit: **2642**
Filed: **May 2, 2000**) Examiner: **Agdeppa, H.**
For: **Method and System for Routing
Service Calls Made from Resold
Lines**)

**AFTER FINAL – PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

Examiner Agdeppa:

If the clarification below does not convince the examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone interview to clarify the patentable differences between the claimed subject matter of this application and the cited reference, *Culli et al.*, United States Patent No. 6,205,214 B1. These differences were pointed out in the Amendment and Response to the first Office Action, but the description of the differences may not have been as clear as could have been desired because that description has been, unfortunately, misinterpreted in the recently received Final Office Action.

In sum, the claimed subject matter centralizes the processes that are carried out in a distributed fashion in *Culli et al.* In the claimed subject matter, all calls from resold lines that are received at end offices are routed by those end offices to an AIN Hub. An AIN Hub is a network element and may be a service switching point (SSP). The AIN Hub queries the service

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control point (SCP) for routing instructions. Upon receipt of the routing instruction, the AIN Hub routes the calls.

In contrast, *Culli et al.* includes no element like the AIN Hub. *Culli et al.* is like the prior art described in the background of this patent application. *Culli et al.* includes service switching points (SSPs) as end offices and each of those end offices has to contact an SCP for routing instructions. Thus, each of *Culli et al.*'s switches has to maintain current information on all of the local service providers. Each time a new service provider enters the market or similar event occurs, each of *Culli et al.*'s switches must be updated with information. The result, at least, is the inefficient use of the respective memory/storage devices of *Culli et al.*'s SSPs.

To further clarify the differences between the claimed subject matter and *Culli et al.*, Exhibit A is attached and includes simplified drawings from the application and from *Culli et al.*. At the top of Exhibit A, the drawing illustrates that all calls from resold lines received in SSP 60, End Office 22, or End Office 64 are routed to AIN Hub 190. The AIN Hub obtains instructions from SCP 200.

In contrast, the drawing in the bottom half of Exhibit A illustrates that each of *Culli et al.*'s SSPs 34, 36, 38, 40 makes queries to the ISCP 30, and each of these SSPs receives instructions from the ISCP 30.

To more particularly point out the differences between the claimed subject matter and *Culli et al.*, a proposal for the amendment of Claim 1 is set out below. The amendment replaces "service switching point" with "AIN Hub".